



ALLEGHENY COMMONS

NORTH PROMENADE

Allegheny Commons is our region's first park, created to give people "breathing places" at the peak of the industrial revolution. In step with the 19th century movement to beautify cities and improve urban living conditions, the City of Allegheny secured approval from the state legislature to establish the Commons as a public park just before the Civil War.

The park's original plan, designed by Mitchell and Grant in 1867, featured an elaborate path system for strolling, accented by fountains and monuments at key focal points to provide structure and destinations within the largely flat landscape. In the 1930s, Park Superintendent Ralph Griswold streamlined the path system and modified site details. It is the formal design of the Promenade in East and North Commons that best defines the park's historic and aesthetic character.

From 2005-2009, the City of Pittsburgh partnered with the Allegheny Commons Initiative to restore the East Common. This work was based on the 2002 Master Plan for Allegheny Commons, by Pressley Associates. Undertaken in two phases, the project established historically based design standards for the park, including paving, lighting, seating, railing, and waste receptacles.



These standards were used for the Northeast Fountain project and will continue in the North Promenade and throughout the park. Like East Common, the North Common is a narrow strip of parkland still characterized by the original plan's symmetry and formality. The main design element for this area – the central allee with its terminal focal points, crosscut by perpendicular and bow-shaped diagonal paths at street crossings – remains largely intact but needs reconstruction.

THE PROJECT

The project will restore the 1935 path pattern, removing unnecessary paths and excess pavement. New pedestrian crossings at Federal and Arch Streets will include planted medians to provide safe harbor and signal drivers that they are entering the park zone. The George Washington Monument will be given a new setting in a well-scaled oval plaza. Finishing touches will include historically appropriate benches and energy efficient lighting. The planting scheme will feature a central allee of canopy trees along the Promenade, with a variety of understory trees planted informally in the flanking lawn.

1867 • Promenade is constructed

2002 • Master Plan recommends reconstruction

2018 • Action Plan prioritized the Circuit, incorporating the Promenade

2020 • Design begins 2020 Construction of Segment A, from NE Fountain to Federal Street

2021 • Construction of Segment B, Federal St. to George Washington Monument

DESIGN TEAM

LaQuatra Bonci Landscape Architects

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



PROJECT PARTNERS



Recognition opportunities to support the North Promenade project are available at a number of gift levels. For more information about the project and ways to get involved, please contact Julie Segner, Individual Giving Manager, at 412.682.7275 ext. 240, or jsegner@pittsburghparks.org.

TREES

108 trees representing 17 species to be planted.

TURF

Excess pavement to be removed; turf to be rehabilitated and drainage improved

PROMENADE

Consistent width of 15', paved in historically appropriate asphalt, totalling 1,445 linear feet (approx. 1/4 mile)

CONNECTING PATHS

Eight feet wide, asphalt, totaling 1,700 linear feet (approx. 1/3 mile)

CROSSWALKS

New mid-block crossings for a continuous Promenade and to strengthen the park's visual presence

SIDEWALKS

New walk along McCabe Field boundary

PIPERAILING

Historic detail denotes park boundaries and restricts vehicular access

BOLLARDS

Locking, collapsible bollards to restrict vehicular access

LIGHTING

29 LED pedestrian lights along Promenade, some with outlets

SEATING

30 standard historic benches

MONUMENTS

George Washington Monument to receive new plaza, plantings, and lighting; Hartzell Monument to be relocated near its original site along Federal Street at the Promenade

**Learn more online at
www.pittsburghparks.org**